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PROGRAM

Morning Edition

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NPR Network

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SUBJECT

Helms Investigation/Chile

DAVID MOLPUS: National Public Radio has learned new details of allegations that Republican Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, or his staff disclosed U.S. intelligence information to the Chilean government. The allegded leak involved information about the death in Santiago of Rodrigo Rojas, a Chilean born U.S resident.

Witnesses say Rojas was set on fire and burned to death by members of the Chilean Arms Forces.

NPR's Jim Angle has our report.

JIM ANGLE: An administration source told NPR that an official of the Chilean government has confirmed to U.S. officials that Chile learned of U.S. intelligence information on Rojas' death from Helms or a member of his staff.

The Chilean official told the U.S. Embassy in Santiago that Chilean officials received a called from Helms describing the information that had been obtained by the Central Intelligence Agency. But the source cautioned that it was not clear whether the call came from Helms himself, or someone representing Helms.

The center of a current FBI investigation is Christopher Manion, an aide to Helms on the Senate Foreign Relations staff. According to a knowledgeable Administration source, who spoke on the condition he not be identified, Helms saw a reference to the Rojas death in the National Intelligence Daily, a roundup of intelligence information distributed largely within the Administration. As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs, Helms has access to intelligence information on